



April 16, 2020

Dear Interested Party,

In a letter dated February 12, 2020, DEQ announced the opening of Montana water quality standards for public comment and a public hearing scheduled on April 6, 2020. Due to health concerns involving COVID-19, the public hearing was cancelled. DEQ is re-scheduling this hearing to take place on June 10, 2020, at 1:00 PM in Room 45 of the Metcalf Building at 1520 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, Montana. Please note, the comment period is extended through June 10, 2020, to coincide with the new public hearing date. More information is available on our website, as well as instructions on how to attend remotely, which will be updated on a regular basis: <http://deq.mt.gov/water/Surfacewater/standards>. For your convenience the information from the original letter is provided below:

The Montana Water Quality Act and the Federal Clean Water Act require that the State of Montana review and, as appropriate, adopt new or revised water quality standards at least every three years. Federal regulations require that the Department open water quality standards for a public comment period of 60 days, as well as hold a public hearing. On February 12, 2020 Montana opened water quality standards for public review, which will end on June 10, 2020. Furthermore, on June 10, 2020, the Board of Environmental Review (Board) will hold a public hearing at 1:00 PM in Room 45 of the Metcalf Building at 1520 E 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Helena, Montana.

The purpose of the public comment period and hearing is for the Board to solicit comments from all interested persons regarding potential revision to any aspect of Montana's water quality standards. Comments should identify the water quality standard at issue, any suggested revision to the standard, and the basis for the suggested revision, including technical information.

Montana's water quality standards include the Administrative Rules of Montana Title 17, Chapter 30, subchapters 5 (mixing zones), 6 (water quality standards), 7 (nondegradation), and 10 (groundwater protection), and Department Circulars DEQ-7 and DEQ-12A and -12B.

You are invited to submit data, views, or arguments concerning water quality standards either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to: William Howard George, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana, 59620-0901; telephone (406) 444-6491; or email: [William.George@mt.gov](mailto:William.George@mt.gov); no later than 5:00 pm on June 10, 2020.

The Board will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities who wish to participate in this hearing or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. If you require an accommodation, contact the Department of Environmental Quality no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 15, 2020, to advise us of the nature of the accommodation that you need. Please contact Sandy Scherer, Department of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, Montana 59620-0901; telephone (406) 444-2630; fax (406) 444-6836; or e-mail [sscherer@mt.gov](mailto:sscherer@mt.gov).

We thank you for your interest in Montana's water quality standards.

Sincerely,

Myla Kelly

Water Quality Standards Section Supervisor